

Remarks

Claims 9-12, 21-30, 32-77 and 79 are pending in this application. Claims 21, 41, 53 and 65, have been amended to remove Schemes 1-4, replacing them with their equivalents in words, thereby bringing the claims into conformance with 37 CFR § 1.58. Claims 39, 40, 51, 52, 63, 64, 76 and 77 have been amended to conform with amendments previously made to the independent claims on which they depend.

No new matter has been added. Importantly, the claim amendments should not be construed to be an acquiescence to any of the claim rejections. Rather, the amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to further prosecute the same or similar claims in subsequent patent applications claiming the benefit of priority to the instant application. 35 USC § 120.

Fees

The Applicants believe they have provided for the required fee in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fee to our Deposit Account, 06-1448.

Conclusion

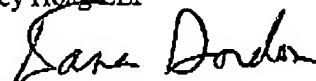
In view of the above amendments, the Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Attorney would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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